



**Monthly Update and Reminders
September 2017**

2017 Convention Cancelled

Message from our President Bill Chambers:

2017 Convention

Several days ago, the Executive Committee discussed the question of what to do about the 2017 Annual Convention, given the impact of Hurricane Harvey upon so many of our members. The expectation is that both the personal and financial futures of the affected members have changed so radically that it would be unwise to go on with the show. We have therefore decided to cancel the 2017 convention while there is still time to do so and receive deposit refunds for the events. **Details** for obtaining **refunds** of payments made for the convention activities are contained in messages from our Executive Committee later in this update.

We do not anticipate rescheduling the events this year, but instead will plan for the 2018 convention.

2017 Business Meeting

The 2017 Business Meeting would have included the election of a new **slate of officers**. Hurricane Harvey has not relieved this requirement. We have decided to consider and approve the slate of officers within the purview of the Executive Committee as an extraordinary measure to ensure the smooth transition of leadership. The slate is as follows:

Executive Committee:

President, Captain Tom Doherty
President Elect, Captain Gary Small
Executive Vice President, Captain Dave Newell
Secretary, Captain Dave Rossetter
Treasurer, Captain Bruce Sprague

Additional Officers:

Past President, Captain Bill Chambers
Golden Contrails Editor, Captain Gary Small

Webmaster, Captain Bruce Sprague
Email Liaison, Captain Dave Newell
Interim Pass Travel Liaison, Captain Dave Newell
Membership Committee Chairman, Captain Andy Cashetta

In addition to approving the new slate of officers, your Executive Committee has approved Honorary Lifetime Memberships for our Secretary and Database manager **Captain Gary Small** and our Treasurer and Webmaster **Captain Bruce Sprague**. Both of these gentlemen have been instrumental in taking the Golden Eagles into the 21st century by upgrading our record keeping process with state of the art database software and a world class website. These gentlemen have really done an outstanding job of improving the Golden Eagles administrative process, and the membership owes them our sincere appreciation for a job well done. Their names will be added to the plaques containing all the Golden Eagles lifetime members.



Gary Second Lifetime Member Plaque



Bruce

I regret that I will not be able to greet each of you in person at this year's convention as planned as I step down from my tenure as Golden Eagles President and Pass Travel Liaison. It has been an honor to serve this organization and I wish to thank our members for giving me the opportunity to do so. Linda and I look forward to seeing each of you at the next convention with great anticipation so that I can express my deep appreciation for your support in person.

Warm Regards,
Bill



Message from President Elect Tom Doherty:

Any of our members who have been affected by hurricanes Harvey or Irma should consider applying to the [United We Care Employee Relief Fund](#). As retired employees, we are eligible to receive benefits. The phone number to call is [877-825-3729](#). Listen for options and select United We Care and follow the prompts for making an application.

There was to be a presentation of a donation to the United We Care program at the convention. Since the cancellation, a check for \$3,000.00 has already been sent.

On another note, members who made reservations for rooms at the Hilton Houston North should call the hotel to cancel. The phone number is [281-875-2222](#).

Thanks,
Tom



The following message was sent to all Golden Eagles members on September 6, 2017 by our Secretary Gary Small on behalf of the Golden Eagles Executive Committee.

2017 Convention Cancelled

Due to ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey, your Golden Eagles Executive Committee has made the hard decision to cancel this year's (2017) annual convention. We made this decision in conjunction with input from various members living in the affected area, and with a concern for certain monetary deposits that would be coming due in the next couple of weeks, well before any assurance could be had of adequate infrastructure in terms of roads, availability of gasoline and a possible requisition of rooms by FEMA.

We deeply regret the missed opportunity to visit and share recent life experiences with our friends and fellow members, but know that many of them will, by necessity, remain focused on recovery efforts well beyond our initially scheduled event. All member deposits WILL be refunded over the next several days, when our Treasurer, Bruce Sprague, has an opportunity to do so. As many of you already know, he is one of the Kingwood members with major damage.

Note from our Treasurer/Webmaster Bruce Sprague:

I will be posting the refunds of all convention payments by Sept 15, but they may not hit your credit card accounts until a week later. If you do not see your refund by Sept 22, email me so I can check on it.

Members who made reservations for rooms at the Hilton Houston North should call the hotel to cancel. The phone number is [281-875-2222](#).

Thanks, Bruce,
bruce.sprague@mac.com



Your Executive Council will take some time to evaluate options for next year's (2018) convention, in terms of location and time of year. We are currently considering a new scheduling concept for the January-February time frame, to allow for future hurricane seasons along the Gulf, as well as picking a time more conducive to non-revenue travel.

We hope to arrive at some decisions on these matters over the next few weeks and will communicate those plans as soon as they are determined. In the meantime, we always welcome input from our members, and are hopeful of your understanding and continued support for our affected members.

Your Executive Committee

Gary Small
Secretary, The Golden Eagles
smallgd@gmail.com

Hurricane Harvey Donations:

The following message was sent to our members on August 29, 2017 by our Secretary Gary Small on behalf of the Golden Eagles Executive Committee. For those who may have missed it, we have reproduced the message below. Please respond as you see fit.

Hurricane Harvey Update

Your Golden Eagles Executive Committee wishes to express our sincere sympathy for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Clearly, a large percentage of our membership and colleagues from Continental Airlines, both retired and still active at United work and reside in the Houston and greater Southeast Texas area.

This is still an ongoing disaster with a large contingent of members who live in Kingwood being evacuated or otherwise

directly impacted today. While there is very little those of us outside of the disaster area can do in the short term, **we CAN make some individual impact by donating to one of the various agencies involved in rescue and relief. To that end, your Golden Eagles has made a donation of \$1000 to the Red Cross via the donation tab on the United website (www.united.com).**

We encourage any of our members who are inclined and have the means to assist financially in this relief effort, to do so via the United website, where you can choose from American Red Cross, Greater Houston Community Foundation, Airlink, Americares, or Operation USA. By using the United site, you can acquire Mileage Plus (frequent flyer) miles as an incentive if you are a Mileage Plus member. Alternatively, there are other sites accepting donations for Harvey relief if you have your own preferred method.

We seldom use this medium of contact for anything other than Golden Eagles news and business, but this misfortune has hit at the very heart of our membership and former corporate home.

We thank you on behalf of all of those in need for your consideration and support.

UPDATE: In addition to those affected by hurricane Harvey, there are now numerous Golden Eagles members who have been similarly affected by hurricane Irma in Florida and the Southeast U.S. Please remember these folks as well when you consider any support you may feel inclined to provide.

Gary Small
Secretary, The Golden Eagles
smallgd@gmail.com

The numbers are nearly unfathomable...

25 trillion gallons of water... That's roughly how much rain Hurricane Harvey dumped on the Houston area in fewer than five days.

And the 51.88 inches of rainfall measured outside the city is the most ever recorded from a single storm in the continental U.S., according to the National Weather Service.

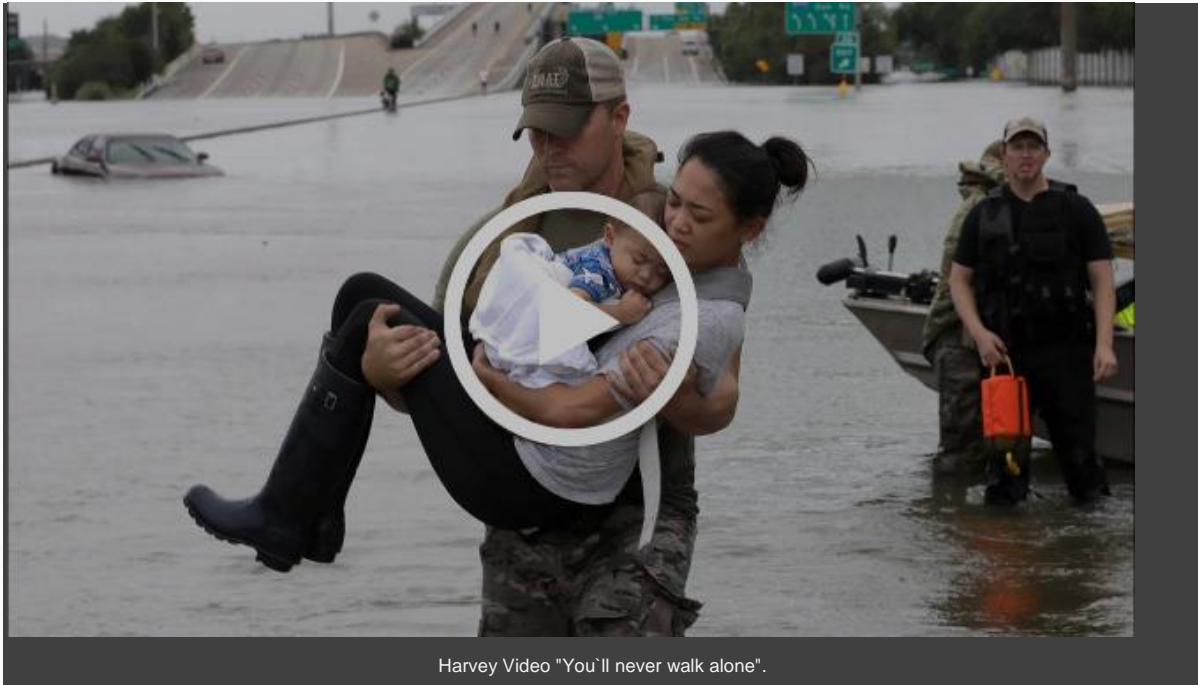
This is more rain than typically falls in six months there... and enough water to supply New York City for more than 50 years, according to ABC News. More than 40 people have died as a result of the storm, and at least another 30,000 have been forced from their homes.



Bruce Sprague's house in Kingwood after cleanup
Typical of many of our member's homes in the area that were affected by the storm

Clearly this month's update primarily deals with Hurricane Harvey and the resulting cancellation of our convention. The following video, ***while not in keeping with our normal content for these updates***, is a poignant reminder of the human tragedy caused by such events. The video was thoughtfully provided by Golden Eagles Past President Gary Humphries, and because of the recent catastrophic events, it was felt that it would be appropriate to include it in this month's update. ***We ask for our members' indulgence in this regard.*** We hope that our members, and in particular those who live in parts of the country not directly affected by the recent hurricanes, will appreciate the inclusion of this video in our update so that they may have a better understanding of the human tragedy caused by these storms in general and of the impact on some of our members in particular.

In conjunction with our Secretary Gary Small's request for donations previously made in this update, we are hopeful that the message in this meaningful and powerful video will encourage our members to consider making a generous contribution to the relief fund via any one of the methods described.



A note from Charlie Starr to the Executive Committee:

Just a short blurb to tell you that - though the decision to cancel the 2017 Golden Eagle Convention must have been a difficult one to make, and surely disappointing to many - none the less I think you made the right decision. Though the basic infrastructure of Houston may have rebounded by October so that those of us from out of town may not have been impacted, none-the-less those in the Houston area (who would have made up a large percentage of members attending) will still be deeply impacted. I know that our deepest sympathies go out to all who suffered damage and losses, and we can be thankful for their being spared any serious injuries or even worse. I, like the many other Golden Eagles, look forward to the 2018 convention and reunion. Again, I think your decision was both wise and will be well understood.

Now.....please aim Irma away from Florida.

Charlie & Cynthia Starr

*Family and Friends,
To all of you who have suffered and some of you who will continue to*

deal with the flood damage for months, maybe years.....we wish we were there to help you.

We, being so far away can, and will, continue to keep you all in our prayers, and continue through our church to send needed items and money.

We cannot believe the wrath of Harvey, and now Ugly Irma and her uglier cousin Jose. This is just totally unbelievable!

With love from us in Georgetown Texas,

Pam and Lee Meyners

Ben and Chris McKenzie

Bob and Carol Shelton

Bernie and Sandy Hallee

Don and Francina Gentry

Here are the the ever-present reminders that we include in every monthly update:

1. Annual **dues** are due on January 1 of each year. Please use the website **Store** to make all Golden Eagles payments.
2. The current **password** for accessing the Golden Contrails magazine and the member rosters on our website, www.thegoldeneagles.org, is **wing**.
3. Check out the new program for keeping your friends updated on your current status . Details are on our website under the Contrails heading and **Crew Room** subheading.
4. Remember we always welcome **interesting stories** related to your airline career or your retirement activities for inclusion in the Golden Contrails magazine. Share them with your fellow Golden Eagles members by sending them to our Secretary/Golden Contrails Editor Gary Small at smallgd@outlook.com. [*layover stories will be closely screened and/or censored :*]
5. Please support our continuing project of building a complete **photo roster** of all Golden Eagles members by sending a passport size JPG photo to Gary Small at smallgd@outlook.com. Complete details are available on our website, www.thegoldeneagles.org, under the Membership section and the Roster Download subsection.

Pass Travel

As previously announced, our President Bill Chambers has elected to step down from his duties as the Pass Travel Liaison due to health considerations and to devote his energies to managing the Local Area Council (LAC) program which he has been instrumental in developing. We will be engaged in an active search for a replacement for Bill to serve as the Pass Travel Liaison, and in the interim, Dave Newell will serve in that capacity.

In that regard, it is requested that our members initially refer to the United Flying Together website Travel section, <https://flyingtogether.ual.com/web/site.jsp?SID=Travel>, to resolve any pass travel questions. Please keep in mind that the **Travel Section** of the United Flying Together website has been **greatly improved** and now contains a wealth of good information regarding all pass travel issues. Our members are encouraged to refer to this resource as an **initial source for answers to pass travel questions**.

If the question cannot be resolved through the website, members should contact the Employee Travel Center (ETC) at 877-825-3729 or etrc@united.com. If your issue cannot be resolved satisfactorily by these two resources, please email me, Dave Newell, at davebnewell@gmail.com and I will attempt to achieve a resolution for you.



GONE WEST



GOLDEN EAGLES GONE WEST, OCTOBER 2016-PRESENT

Jim Steinmetz, Dec 7, 2016
Andy Arthur, Feb 1, 2016
Ted Herbert, April 6, 2017
Denis Duffy, April 10, 2017
Wayne Fischer, April 10, 2017
Gary Wilsey, July 31, 2017
[Bill Knowles, Sept 1, 2017](#)
[Stan Poyner, Sept 10, 2017](#)

NON GOLDEN EAGLES GONE WEST, OCTOBER 2016-PRESENT

Bruce Tessmer, Nov, 2016
Joe Hegidio, Jan 27, 2017
Jerry Huerta, Feb 18, 2017
Jocko Harris, Mar 5, 2017
Dale Haas, April 5, 2017
Glenn Fox, April 22, 2017
Daniel James, Aug 1, 2017
Ted Rutherford, Aug 6, 2017

Dave Newell
Golden Eagles Email Liaison
davebnewell@gmail.com



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